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Governor Brown Secures Fire Management Assistance Grant for Coco, Poinsettia Fires in San Diego County

SACRAMENTO – As high temperatures continue throughout the state and firefighters battle fires in San Diego and Ventura counties, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., today secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to enable the availability of vital firefighting cost reimbursement for responding local, state and tribal agencies at the Poinsettia Fire burning in San Diego County.

So far, the fire has consumed at least 100 acres, destroyed or damaged multiple structures and prompted the issuance of mandatory evacuation orders.

"We welcome FEMA's approval of Governor Brown's request for assistance," said Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci. "Fires like the Poinsettia Fire can put a strain on resources, particularly at a time when dry conditions due to the drought, above normal temperatures and winds have increased the wildfire threat significantly."

The grant, which is provided through the President's Disaster Relief Fund on a cost-share basis, will enable local, state and tribal agencies responding to the fire at the request of incident commanders to apply for a 75-percent reimbursement of costs related to mobilization, demobilization, travel and labor. Equipment and supply use, administrative activities and other fire-related costs are also eligible for reimbursement. Responding local, state and tribal agencies are responsible for the remaining 25 percent of their costs.

"Conditions throughout the state that are likely to get worse, rather than better, as the fire season continues and the federal assistance provided in this grant is critical in addressing these types of disasters," Ghilarducci said. In additions to helping secure the FMAG grant on behalf of the Governor, Cal OES has:

Activated its Southern Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos; Deployed three assistant chiefs from the Cal OES Fire and Rescue Branch to the incident command post; Deployed an assistant chief from the Cal OES Law Enforcement Division and an emergency management expert from the Cal OES Southern Region to the San Diego County Operations Center.

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant for the Coco Fire burning near San Marcos and the University of San Marcos. This fire was also referred to as the Washingtonia Fire earlier in the day. This fire has prompted evacuations in the area and threatens

structures in northern San Diego County, south of State Route 78.

Additional information is available at:

- Fire Management Assistance Grants
- Cal OES Twitter <u>@Cal_OES</u>
 Governor's Office of Emergency Services <u>www.caloes.ca.gov</u>